

2013 Needs Assessment for Mobile County

Edmond G. Naman

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Lawrence Battiste, IV | Steve Ellisor | Dr. Jim Taylor | Valerie Bryan |
| Jacquelyn Bryant | Virginia Guy | Rev. Brian Cowley | Kimberly Pettway |
| Referee Stefany Gant | Cheryl Gwinn | Timothy Mills | Lyndia Benion |
| Referee Linda Jensen | Violetta Simpson | Rev. Rich Reinsch | Patricia Finkbohner |
| James Chinnners | Wendy McEarchern | Paula Blevins | Major C. Mark Brown |
| Geoff Tynan | Murry E. Cape | Aimee Risser | Lacy Broadus |
| Patricia Cannedy | Dr. Steven Rockwell | Pastor John F. Payne | Ashley Simon |
| Stan McGilvray | Dr. James Stefurak | Felecia Allen | Amanda Harper |
| Ken Brutkiewicz | Shannon Shelley-Tremblay | Jillian Ransom | Angela Ferrara |
| Shirley Phillips | Cameron Pearl | Marie Chastang | Aline Pardue |
| Cheryl Mann | Dr. Ed Litton | Anitra Henderson | Rev. G. Warren Wall |
| Ann Blaize | Dr. Louis Naman | Lydia Pettijohn | Olivia Nettles |
| Sarah Currie | Laura Cummings | Allison Covington | Joy Logan |
| Pete Rolston | Rose Johnson | Karen Price | Major Eddie Burrow |
| Deborah Rice | Courtney Hall | Jacqueline Brown, Esq. | Sgt. Zandra Jackson |
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| Comm Merceria Ludgood | Aimee Lott | William McLean | Raoul R. Richardson |
| Ashley Rich, DA | Carlton Malone | Jerrold Dumas | Desiree Giramonti |
| Theresa Harrison | Anita Boswell | Tennille Thomas | Gabor Mate |
| Ann Sirmon | Rabbi Steven Silberman | Michelle Nolen-Schmidt | Det. Rusty Hardeman |
| Cheryl Turk | Dr. Julian V. Haston | Joan Williams | Bob Burnett |
| Dr. Bert Eichold | Candy Gill-Knickerbocker | Andy Wynne | Erin Thornton |
| Martha Peek | Yancy Burnett | Ashley Peyer | Matthew Turner |
| Terrence Mixon, Sr. | Dr. Jennifer Rohling | Willie Gray | Larry Henderson |
| Dr. Reginald Eggleston | Susan Williams | Dorothy Weaver | Jennifer Jones |
| Sheriff Sam Cochran | Norman McCrummen | Loretta Thomas | Liletta Jenkins |
| Major Eddie Burrow | Art Forward | Lynn Bodet | |
| Chief Tyrone Williams | Timothy Sandin | Julie Shiyou-Woodard | |
| Mary S. Zoghby | Tyrone Walker | Dr. Levi Knox | |
| Brenda Carlisle | Dr. Hilder Wilson | Andrea Pennington | |

Accomplishments

Juvenile Court of Mobile County and the Children's Policy Council members have worked diligently to identify and tackle challenges in our communities to make Mobile County a better place for children and their families. We are getting the word out to the community that this is a community effort and to be successful we must all work together.

Juvenile Court has partnered with local business leaders to form the 'Naman Initiative' whose goal is to assist Judge Naman and the Children Police Council with fulfilling their vision and goals. These business leaders will work with the CPC members to focus on areas of need in our community and develop a plan to instigate a board based community response to those needs and locate resources. We have identified that Truancy is the first indicator that there are problems in the home. Juvenile

Court of Mobile County has partnered with the Bridge, Inc., and Alta Pointe to form a Transitions Truancy Program. Participants in the program are assigned case managers, in-home therapists, and trackers to access and assist with needs/concerns. The Truancy Team provides resources to the family and is in contact with the family on a weekly basis. They visit the schools to get updates on the child's grades/conduct and they assist with transportation and job search. Of the families they have assisted the kids have shown improvements in school attendance, overall mental health and a decrease in criminal activity. After a case is closed, the family continues to receive one-year case management and is seen once monthly.

In conjunction with the Transitions Truancy Program, the Court has implemented, through Alta Pointe, a Truancy Parenting Program. The program teaches the Love and Logic Program which teaches parenting skills and the importance of education.

We have identified that we are facing a big problem with ADD/ADHD. The Juvenile Court has entered into a pilot program to address this problem. The program, Focus MD, will perform FDA cleared testing on adolescent and adult. Juvenile Court Psychologist Deborah Rice will perform screening for dyslexia and other mental health problems.

Mobile County Juvenile Court has identified that juveniles have anger problems. Juvenile Court hears over 1,000 Protection from Abuse (PFA) cases yearly. This affects kids. Juvenile Court has developed a Children Anger Manager Program (CAMP). The program teaches kids how to identify situations that trigger anger and how to avoid them. It teaches them how to defuse anger situations and appropriate responses.

Juvenile Court has a partnership with Bishop State Community College to perform job assessments for boys in the Leadership program. The assessments identify the child's strengths and weaknesses with relations to employment and suggest a list of jobs the child may qualify for.

The Community Against Bullying Coalition (CAB) has implemented their Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP). The program is a science based bullying prevention program that educates, raises awareness, and conveys the bullying prevention message. The Bullying Program is now in 12 public schools throughout Mobile County.

Mobile County Health Department serves as the lead agency promoting the President's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative. MCHD has trained facilitators on this evidence-based program. The program's main focus is abstinence. MCHD has partnered with local youth service organizations and facilitators are implementing the programs within their organization. Mobile County Juvenile Court has partnered with The Mobile County Health Department to address teen pregnancy. With the help of the MCHD this Court has implemented the Reducing the Risk Program. The program's main focus is abstinence and the development of attitudes and skills that will help teens prevent pregnancy and the transmission of STD's, including HIV. The program motivates students to take steps to avoid high-risk behaviors through communication, decision-making, planning, refusal strategies, and delay tactics. 'We are fighting for the hearts, souls, and minds of our children. It's a fight that we are committed to winning. It is a fight that can only be won by community collaborations and fresh and innovative approaches to building and strengthening our families.'

----- VISION STATEMENT

The Juvenile Court of Mobile County is committed to providing justice, protection, and inspiration through guidance, accountability, education, and effective community partnerships thereby empowering our children and families to realize their fullest potential

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

ADDRESS THE ALARMING WIDESPREAD USE OF THE SYNTHIC DRUG (SPICE), MARIJUANA AND PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS AMONG YOUTH AND PARENTS.

| Existing resources available to help meet this need include: | Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include: |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Juvenile Court• Law Enforcement• School System• Bridge/Bradford• Drug Education Council• Public Health• District Attorney's Office• Chamber of Commerce• Work Force Development• Media - TV, Radio, Print• Parents• Youth Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research dissemination to establish true facts about the use of 'Spice' and other drugs.• Concise easy to understand media campaign involving TV, Radio, Print, Social Media• Mentors for youth and adults.• Counselors in schools |

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Form a Drug Task Force
2. Conduct focus groups to identify current attitudes regarding drug use.
3. Develop a strategic plan to address drug use among juveniles and parents.

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

BRING RESOURCE CENTER TO THE COMMUNITY

| Existing resources available to help meet this need include: | Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include: |
|---|--|
| Local Agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Health• Department of Human Resources• Education• Churches• Housing Board• Apartment Complexes• Alta Pointe• Bradford/Bridge• Drug Education Council• District Attorney's Office• Law Enforcement | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding• Building to house agencies• Additional Staff• Coordination of Services |

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Establish a coalition/partnership to improve communication between providers.
2. Identify the area that would benefit most from this service
3. Obtain a facility
4. Provide clients with transportation assistance, ie, bus passes, obtain passenger van and seek out volunteers to transport clients.

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

EDUCATION - We want to change the overall 'need' to Education (instead of GED only). This is in order to include in school as well as out-of- school youth and parents/guardians.

| Existing resources available to help meet this need include: | Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include: |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GED programs at Goodwill Easter Seals, Bishop State as well as many other agencies throughout the city and county.• There are many varied programs provided in the schools to address dropout prevention.• There are a few very successful Mentoring Programs (Big Brother, Goodwill Easter Seals Good Guides, YAP) working with children who lack the guidance, positive influences, and validation necessary at this critical life stage. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult Education- a better referral system for the adults• More of a connection of resources. More referrals between programs that have common goals, but different and unique services. There are many education programs working very successfully, but are unaware of and disconnected with other programs.• More liaisons between programs to guide individuals to the appropriate programs and ensure that connections are being made.• An updated Mobile area Education Resources book. |

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. When referring youth to education programs, indicate the level of education of the parent/guardian.
2. When referring youth/adults to programs a more complete followup system is needed.
3. Creation of a Mobile Education Resource book to help connect programs and services.